

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 06361 020356Z

12

ACTION EB-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6361

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CIEC, AS

SUBJECT: PEACOCK'S REPLY TO MACEACHEN ON CIEC

REF: STATE 212203

1. TEXT OF KISSINGER LETTER TO MACEACHEN PASSED TO R.A. WALKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ECONOMIC POLICY BRANCH, DFA, WHO MOST GLAD TO RECEIVE IT IN VIEW CURRENT VISIT OF MACEACHEN TO AUSTRALIA, DURING WHICH CIEC WILL BE AMONG SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

2. AS REQUESTED IN REFTTEL, WALKER PROVIDED EMBOFF WITH COPY OF PEACOCK REPLY TO MACEACHEN, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR MR. MACEACHEN,

QTE THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 26 JULY 1976 CONCERNING THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE RECENTLY ARISEN IN THE CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (CIEC). I REGRET THAT, HAVING JUST RETURNED TO AUSTRALIA, I WAS UNABLE TO REPLY EARLIER.

QTE LIKE YOU, I HAD HOPED ALSO THAT THE CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 06361 020356Z

SENIOR OFFICIALS AT THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF CIEC MIGHT HAVE

PAVED THE WAY FOR A PRODUCTIVE SECOND PHASE OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE REMAINDER OF 1976. AT THAT TIME IT SEEMED THAT A MEASURE OF AGREEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE GROUP OF EIGHT AND THE GROUP OF NINETEEN WHICH WOULD FORM A BASIS FOR THE FORMULATION OF FUTURE WORK PROGRAMS. THIS AGREEMENT CENTRED, OF COURSE, ON WILLINGNESS TO MOVE FROM AN ANALYTICAL TO A MORE ACTION ORIENTED APPROACH DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY CONCRETE RESULTS AND THEREBY TO REALISE THE POTENTIAL OF CIEC TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, IT WAS A MATTER FOR REGRET FROM AUSTRALIA'S POINT OF VIEW THAT THE JULY SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSIONS WERE UNABLE TO FINALISE THEIR FUTURE WORK PROGRAMS.

QTE AS YOU SAY, WE SHALL NOW NEED TO ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE NOTED YOUR EXPECTATION THAT THE GROUP OF NINETEEN WILL BE LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE OF MOVEMENT IF THE DIALOGUE IS TO BE RESUMED. I HAVE NOTED ALSO YOUR OBSERVATION THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SAVE ALL DELICATE DECISIONS UNTIL DECEMBER.

QTE WE IN AUSTRALIA ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A WIDERANGING REVIEW OF OUR APPROACH TO CIEC ISSUES, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ABOUT THE FINAL OUTCOME. WHAT YOU CAN BE SURE OF, HOWEVER, IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO REGARD CIEC AS A MAJOR INITIATIVE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND TO LOOK TO A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS. AUSTRALIA WOULD WISH TO MAINTAIN THE MOST POSITIVE STANCE POSSIBLE, AND TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN CIEC IN THAT SPIRIT. IT IS OUR HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. PEREZ GUERRERO IT WILL PROVE POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES WHICH WILL ENABLE THE COMMISSIONS TO RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER AS SCHEDULED.

QTE I APPRECIATE THAT THIS WILL BE NO EASY TASK. WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT THE GROUP OF EIGHT MAINTAIN CONSISTENCY IN THEIR APPROACH AND THAT CANADA, AS CO-CHAIRMAN, REMAIN THE FOCAL POINT FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GROUP OF NINETEEN. CLEARLY YOU MUST HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GROUP OF EIGHT IF THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S DISCUSSIONS ARE TO SUCCEED IN RESOLVING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 06361 020356Z

THE PRESENT DEADLOCK. CERTAINLY YOU MAY COUNT ON AUSTRALIA'S CONFIDENCE IN, AND SUPPORT FOR, YOUR EFFORTS.

QTE WE HAVE APPRECIATED BEING KEPT INFORMED OF THE SITUATION AS CANDDA SEES IT AND WILL BE WATCHING FUTUSDEVELOPMENTS DLOSELY. NO DOUBT CANADIAN AND AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONSULTATION. PLEASE FEEL FREE, NEVERTHELESS, TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY AGAIN IF YOU BELIEVE DEVELOPMENTS

WARRANT SUCH AN APPROACH. IN THE MEANTIME I SHOULD LIKE TO
REITERATE AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR YOUR EFFORTS AND TO
EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT CIEC CAN BE GOT BACK ON THE RAILS IN
TIME FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSIONS. YOURS
SINCERELY, (ANDREW PEACOCK). END QTE.
HARGROVE

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